

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 01525 111826Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-13 SS-15 PRS-01 PA-01
USIA-06 SP-02 INR-07 /058 W
-----009264 111828Z /46
P R 111314Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0200
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN US BC
SUBJECT: REACTION TO SECRETARY'S SPEECH ON AFRICA

REF: STATE 156471

SECRETARY VANCE'S JULY 1 SPEECH TO NAACP WAS DISTRIBUTED PROMPTLY TO MFA OFFICIALS AND LATER SUBJECT OF SPECIAL USIS MAILING TO OVER 100 OPINION LEADERS. WE HOPED TODAY'S MEETING WITH FONMIN MOGWE (REPORTED SEPTTEL) WOULD PROVIDE OCCASION FOR HIGH LEVEL REACTION. HOWEVER, MOGWE TOLD ME HE HAD SCANNED BUT NOT YET HAD TIME TO READ SECRETARY'S SPEECH. HE HAD HEARD IT WAS VEJY GOOD AND SAID HE INTENDS TO READ IT CAREFULLY AND GIVE US HIS REACTION. HE MADE GENERAL OBSERVATION IN PASSING THAT HE THOUGHT U.S. CONCERN ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS WAS "GETTING THROUGH" TO A NUMBER OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES. HE WONDERED IF TALK BY SEVERAL SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTERS ABOUT REPEALING "IMMORALITY LAWS" MIGHT NOT BE ATTRIBUTED TO U.S. POLICY.

2. MEANWHILE, TOP MINEXTAFF OFFICIALS HAVE GIVEN US THEIR REACTIONS, BOTH HIGHLY FAVORABLE. PERMSEC MPOTOKWANE, WHO IS NOT ONE TO WASTE WORDS, DESCRIBED SECRETARY'S SPEECH AS "VERY IMPORTANT" ADDING HE HAD READ IT
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THOROUGHLY. HE PARTICULARLY LIKED THE SECTION DEFENDING U.S. DECISION TO "PURSUE ACTIVELY" SOLUTION TO ALL THREE SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEMS SIMULTANEOUSLY. HE FOUND THIS POINT "VERY WELL ARGUED" AND PUT IN A WAY THAT HE HAD NOT HEARD BEFORE.

3. DEPUTY PERMSEC MOGAMI, FORMER BOTSWANA PERMREP

AT THE UN, DESCRIBED THE SPEECH AS "IMPRESSIVE" AND
SEPARATELY NOTED HIS AGREEMENT WITH FONMIN MOGWE'S
SUGGESTION THAT QUESTIONING OF "IMMORALITY LAWS" IN
SAG COULD HAVE ITS ORIGINS IN RECENT U.S. PRONOUNCEMENTS.
HE AGREED EXTENT OF U.S. INFLUENCE COULD NEVER BE MEASURED
(AND SHOULD NOT BE PUBLICLY SUGGESTED) BUT PERSONALLY FELT
EFFECT WAS UNMISTAKABLE.
NORLAND

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: SPEECHES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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